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**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

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COMPANY: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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FROM: F. Lindsey Scott

OUR FILE NO.: ARCO-25,200; DP 50-06-1641C

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Steve Ingistov

Serial No. : 09/288,943

Filed: April 9, 1999

Group Art Unit: 3745

Examiner: Kwon

Title : TURBINE POWER PLANT HAVING MINIMAL-CONTACT BRUSH  
SEAL AUGMENTED LABYRINTH SEAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following Second Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the subject application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel, without prejudice, Claims 21-31.

COMMENTS

As previously indicated, Applicant seeks to initiate a patent interference with U.S. Patent 5,630,590 (the '590 Patent) with this application. The filing date to which the subject application is entitled and the filing date of the '590 Patent differ by less than three months. Accordingly, it is believed that the criteria for the declaration of an interference are set forth under 37 CFR 1.608(a).

To expedite prosecution and the initiation of an interference, Applicant has cancelled all claims, without prejudice, except for those claims copied from the '590 Patent.